

Such being a sketch of the symptoms and prognosis, we have only to enumerate the alterations in the capsules constituting the morbid anatomy of the disease. It has been already stated that Rayer called attention to apoplexy and the consecutive dilatation of the renal capsules. He reports no case, occurring in his own practice, in which they were otherwise affected. He merely quotes a few instances of tuberculous or cancerous affections, and says he has never met with the latter in the capsules except when it involved the kidneys also. It is singular that in all of Addison's cases there is not one of apoplexy; once only the capsule was distended by effused blood, in connection with a tubercular disease; a tuberculous mass completely arresting the circulation in one of the largest veins, hæmorrhage occurred from a rupture behind the obstacle. The remaining cases are made up of obscure and doubtful instances of fibrous, cancerous and tubercular degeneration, with and without similar deposits in other organs. In most of the cases the kidneys were healthy or but slightly changed, the whole number being too small to authorize absolute conclusions.

[To be continued.]

ETHERIZATION IN NERVOUS OR VITAL SHOCK.

BY H. HATCH, M.D., BURLINGTON, VT.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—The influence of etherization in preventing nervous or vital shock, from severe surgical operations, is, I suppose, a fact well established in the minds of experienced surgeons. But whether the shock, already induced by a severe injury, can be relieved by the same means, and the nervous system quickly restored to its normal condition, is a question which I have not seen discussed, nor has my limited reading brought to my notice any published facts having a direct bearing on this important subject.

The following case, which occurred in my practice some months since, seems to me to look somewhat in that direction, and the result was so unexpected and satisfactory to my own mind, that I am induced to offer it for publication, if you deem it of sufficient interest to deserve a place in the Journal.

Mr. B., aged about 27, an industrious mechanic of good habits, was tending a planing machine, in which the cylinder, holding the knives, worked on the under side of the board to be planed. While removing, with his left foot, the shavings accumulated under the machine, the foot was caught by the revolving knives, and, before the machine could be stopped, the foot with the boot and more than half the leg below the knee were torn into fragments.

I saw the patient very soon after the accident. Considerable blood had been lost, and it was still oozing freely from the lacerated stump. He was blanched and faint, complained of pain, and was restless. The skin was cold and moist, and the pulse extreme-

ly feeble. He was removed immediately to his boarding house; warmth was applied; opium, morphine, brandy, &c., were administered freely, with no perceptible effect. As the bleeding continued and was partly arterial, the tourniquet was suggested and applied. He still moaned and complained of pain, which was probably increased by the tourniquet. He continued in this condition for two or three hours, taking brandy and morphine freely, with little or no change. Etherization was now suggested to relieve his pain and restlessness. He commenced inhaling sulphuric ether, and very soon ceased to moan, and, much to our gratification, we found the pulse rapidly improving; so that in about twenty minutes from the commencement of the inhalation, reaction was so far restored, that we had no hesitation in proceeding at once to amputation. He was now brought fully under the influence of the ether, and the limb was removed below the knee. He bore the operation well, lost but little blood, the pulse continued good, and he had a favorable recovery.

Burlington, Vt., Sept. 3d, 1856.

SCARLET FEVER.

BY CALVIN G. PAGE, M.D., ONE OF THE VISITING PHYSICIANS OF THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—I have thought that an account of an epidemic of scarlet fever, occurring principally in my dispensary practice (most of the cases being in Ward V.), would not be uninteresting to the readers of the Journal.

The whole number of cases was 53. Recovered, 47; died, 6. The first case was seen on May 26th, the last on August 12th. Of the 6 deaths, 4 were from the disease proper, 2 from the sequelæ. The 4 who died from the disease proper, had all previously experienced convulsive attacks of some sort; 3 of them died within 24 hours of the commencement of the attack, one in 36 hours, in convulsions. In 3, the eruption suddenly disappeared. In 1, it assumed the purple color of scarlatina maligna. Of the deaths, 5 were those of boys; 1, a girl.

Two cases of subsequent dropsy recovered under the free use of hock wine, first recommended (I think) by Dr. John Ware. In one case of recovery, in which convulsions took place, some very remarkable phenomena occurred; the child, which had so far recovered as to be able to sit at the table with the family, was suddenly seized with paralysis, affecting the whole trunk and limbs. This soon passed away. He was then seized with hemiplegia. He was placed at once (by direction) in a hot mustard bath. In about six hours this attack passed away, and was soon followed by paraplegia, for which the same treatment was used, and from which he